

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**LIST OF CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A spinneret plate for producing a thermoplastic synthetic polymer filament having a core portion from which extend N lobes, the core portion having N radially inwardly extending stiffening ribs that cooperate to define at least N hollow regions in the core portion, each hollow region aligning radially with a respective lobe,

each lobe having at least one traverse web disposed in the lobe between

the tip of the lobe and the hollow region aligned with the lobe,

the spinneret plate comprising a cluster of N peripheral slots centered about

a central point, each peripheral slot comprising a pair of slot segments

joined at a junction point ~~by concave cusps~~ whereby the slot segments define an

angle that is greater than 180° relative to the central point, each slot segment in

one peripheral slot being confrontationally disposed with a slot segment in another peripheral slot,

a rib-forming slot extending from each junction point toward the central point of the cluster, and

at least one web-forming slot extending from each slot segment toward the slot segment with which it is confrontationally disposed.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The spinneret plate of claim 1 wherein each rib-forming slot extends at least two-thirds of the distance between the junction point and the central point of the cluster.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The spinneret plate of claim 1 wherein there are three pairs of peripheral slot segments.

6. (Original) The spinneret plate of claim 1 wherein there are four pairs of peripheral slot segments.

7. (Original) The spinneret plate of claim 1 wherein each peripheral slot segment is substantially linear over substantially its entire length.

8. (Original) The spinneret plate of claim 1 slot wherein each peripheral slot segment is convexly curved over substantially its entire length.